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ZNY CCC CC ZZH

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 915

RUESBA/UMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 4315

BT

SANTIAGO 834

EC 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, CI, AR, UN

SUBJECT: DID MISSING CHILEAN COMMUNISTS TRAVEL TO ARGENTINA?

REF: 76 SANTIAGO 10379 (NOTAL)

1. ON AUGUST 30, 1976, THE GOC TOLD THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AD HOC WORKING GROUP THAT THREE CHILEAN CITIZENS (WELL KNOWN AS LEADING COMMUNISTS) HAD BEEN RECORDED AS DEPARTING FOR ARGENTINA. THE CHILEAN PRESENTATION, REPRODUCED ON PAGES 189-190 ON UNGA DOC A/31/253 OF 8 OCTOBER 1976, STATES THAT GOC RECORDS SHOW MARIO JAIME ZAMORANO DONOSO AND ONOFRE JORGE MUNOZ BOUTAYS DEPARTED SANTIAGO'S PUDAHUEL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ARGENTINA ON MAY 13, 1976. IT ALSO ASSERTS THAT BERNARDO ARAYA ZULETA AND MARIA FLORES BARRAZA (ARAYA'S WIFE) CROSSED FROM AVANZADA DE CARACOLLES INTO ARGENTINA BY VEHICLE ON APRIL 7, 1976. (THE OFFICIAL NOTE STATES ARAYA LEFT BY "A VEHICLE OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT COMPANY" -- I.E., BY BUS -- BUT THE ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM OF GOC FRONTIER CONTROL SPOKE OF "AN UNIDENTIFIED PRIVATE VEHICLE").

2. ON JANUARY 26 THE WIFE OF ZAMORANO VISITED THE EMBASSY, ALONG WITH A GROUP OF RELATIVES OF MISSING PERSONS. A COMMITTED COMMUNIST HERSELF BY ALL APPEARANCES, SHE DESCRIBED THE STEPS ALLEGEDLY TAKEN TO CHECK THE GOC' ACCOUNT TO THE DURC. SHE BELIEVES HER HUSBAND IS STILL ALIVE AND IN CHILE. SHE SAYS THAT HER "FRIENDS" WENT OVER ALL THE AIRLINE MANIFESTS COVERING DEPARTURES FOR ARGENTINA DURING MAY 1976, WITHOUT A TRACE OF HER HUSBAND'S OR MUNOZ' NAMES. AFTER FURTHER INQUIRY SHE LEARNED (IT IS NOT CLEAR IF INFORMALLY OR THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS) THAT CHILEAN POLICE AIRPORT RECORDS SHOWED THE PAIR HAVING LEFT FOR BUENOS AIRES MAY 13 TOGETHER WITH 14 OTHERS VIA A SPECIAL CHILEAN GOVERNMENT PLANE. SHE STATES THAT ANOTHER "FRIEND" IS ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY IF ARGENTINE RECORDS SHOW THE FLIGHT'S ARRIVAL. WE DO NOT TAKE MRS. ZAMORANO'S STATEMENTS ON FACE VALUE -- SHE HAS MANY REASONS TO POKE HOLES IN THE GOC'S VERSION. NONETHELESS, HER ACCOUNT WOULD HELP EXPLAIN HOW SUCH WELL KNOWN AND SOUGHT AFTER COMMUNISTS MIGHT LEAVE CHILE UNDER THEIR TRUE NAMES.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____

ACTION 001
7 JAN 31 AM 10 45

DD 091

UNCLASSIFIED

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DAO		
CCM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	L GATT		
			CEA		
POL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		FA3		
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3. COMMENT: UNLIKE MOST OTHER GOC CLAIMS REGARDING MISSING PERSONS, THIS ONE APPEARS INVESTIGATABLE. AIRLINES KEEP PASSENGER MANIFESTS AND ONLY A HANDFUL OF FLIGHTS LEAVE PUDAHUEL FOR ANYWHERE IN ARGENTINA ON A GIVEN DAY. ARGENTINA AUTHORITIES MAINTAIN RECORDS OF ARRIVING PASSENGERS AND ALL ARRIVING FLIGHTS. WHEREAS IMMIGRATION RECORDS AT LAS CUEVAS ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE OF THE OVERLAND PASS WHICH BEGINS AT CARACOLAS IN CHILE PROBABLY LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED IN TERMS OF COMPLETENESS AND NEATNESS, THE GOC APPEARS KEEN ON KEEPING TRACK OF ALL VEHICLES ENTERING AND LEAVING THE COUNTRY. THUS, IT SHOULD BE REASONABLE TO ASK THE AIRLINES FOR THE APPROPRIATE MANIFESTS, THE GOC FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTURES, AND THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO RUN NAME CHECKS ON ZAMORANO AND MUNOZ -- OR ANY SPECIAL GOC FLIGHTS ARRIVING DURING THE MID-MAY PERIOD -- AND ON ARAYA, FLORES AND THEIR VEHICLE.

4. THIS INFORMATION IS FURNISHED FOR BACKGROUND INFO AND FOR SUCH USE AS THE DEPARTMENT MAY DESIRE.

POPPER

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